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UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

SPECIAL PROCEDURES ASSUMED BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Mandate of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

RELEASED IN FULL

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REFERENCE: G/SO 218/2

7 September 2006

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

The Commission on Human Rights, by its resolution 2003/31 entitled "Question of arbitrary detention", decided to renew, for a three-year period, the mandate of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and invited the Working Group in discharging its mandate, to continue to seek and gather information from Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as from the individuals concerned, their families or their legal representatives. The Human Rights Council assumed the mandate by its decision 2006/102.

I wish to refer to the letter dated 8 December 2005 addressed to you concerning cases of arbitrary detention which were reported to have occurred in your country.

In light of the above, and in keeping with the mandate entrusted to it by the Commission on Human Rights, and with its methods of work, the Working Group has examined the above-mentioned cases, taking into consideration all the pertinent information at its disposal and has adopted, on 1 September 2006, Opinion No. 29/2006 (copy attached). This Opinion will be reproduced in the report which the Working Group will present to the Human Rights Council.

Accept, Mr. Ambassador, the assurances of my highest consideration.

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Leila Zerrougui Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

H.E. Mr. Warren W. Tichenor Ambassador Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations Office at Geneva Route de Pregny 11 1292 Chambésy